GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5871
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
HARASSMENT BY I.T. OFFICIALS
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there are instances of tax assessees being harassed and forced to disclose hidden income during raids, surveys and seizures by Income-Tax officials;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the new Income Tax rules bar Income Tax officials from obtaining confession under duress during a survey raid or seizure; and

(d) If so, the details thereof with the action taken against such officials?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN).

(a) to (d): The assessees have sometimes been claiming that they have been forced to confess undisclosed income during the search/ seizure and survey operations. On the other hand, the authorized officers have taken a stand that such disclosures are voluntary. The Department has no records which could establish that the assessees were forced to disclose additional income. However, with a view to end the controversy, the departmental officers have been advised that no attempt should be made to obtain confession of the undisclosed income during the course of search/ seizure and survey actions.